

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12
/122 W

-----078794 131029Z /15

R 120918Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8141
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USMISSION GENEVA
CDR VII CORPS MOEHRINGEN GER//AETSGC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3702

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, MOPS, SU, ET, BE
SUBJ: BELGIAN RELIEF PLANE FIRED ON BUT UNHARMED IN SUDAN

1. BELGIAN AIR FORCE C-130 WAS FIRED ON BY LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT (PROBABLY 40MM) GUNS AT KASSALA IN EASTERN SUDAN ON AUGUST 6 WHILE IN LANDING APPROACH. PLANE WAS NOT TOUCHED AND CREW WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER GUNFIRE MEANT FOR THEM UNTIL SUDANESE MAJOR AT AIRFIELD CONFIRMED THAT GUNFIRE WAS AIMED ALONGSIDE AS WARNING. BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT RAISE KASSALA AIRFIELD ON RADIO, BELGIANS BROUGHT C-130 IN LOW AND SLOW. MAJOR ALSO SAID GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES (IN HILLS AROUND KASSALA) WERE LOCKED ON C-130 BUT, OBVIOUSLY, NOT USED. IN ADDITION TO BELGIAN AIR FORCE CREW, PLANE CARRIED ROBERT VAN LEEUWEN, AMERICAN, AND JOHN HUNT, BRITISH, OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COM-
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MISSION FOR REFUGEES, AND DAN CONNELL, AMERICAN REPORTER.

2. BELGIAN C-130 LEFT KHARTOUM SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, WITH RELIEF FOOD AND MEDICINE AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF KASSALA PROVINCE COMMISSIONER. KASSALA GARRISON WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONRY WAS NOT INFORMED OF PLANE'S ARRIVAL DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THIS EFFECT FROM

COMMISSIONER. BELGIAN PLANE HAS CAMOUFLAGE PAINT SIMILAR TO SUDANESE AND SAUDI ARABIAN C-130'S WHICH HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES.

3. COMMENT: SUDAN GOVERNMENT IS RIGHTLY UNEASY AT COMBINATION OF FLOOD EMERGENCY AND REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO VAGUELY DEFINED BORDER, JUST ACROSS WHICH ETHIOPIAN-ERITREAN WARFARE HAS BEEN FLARING UP. BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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